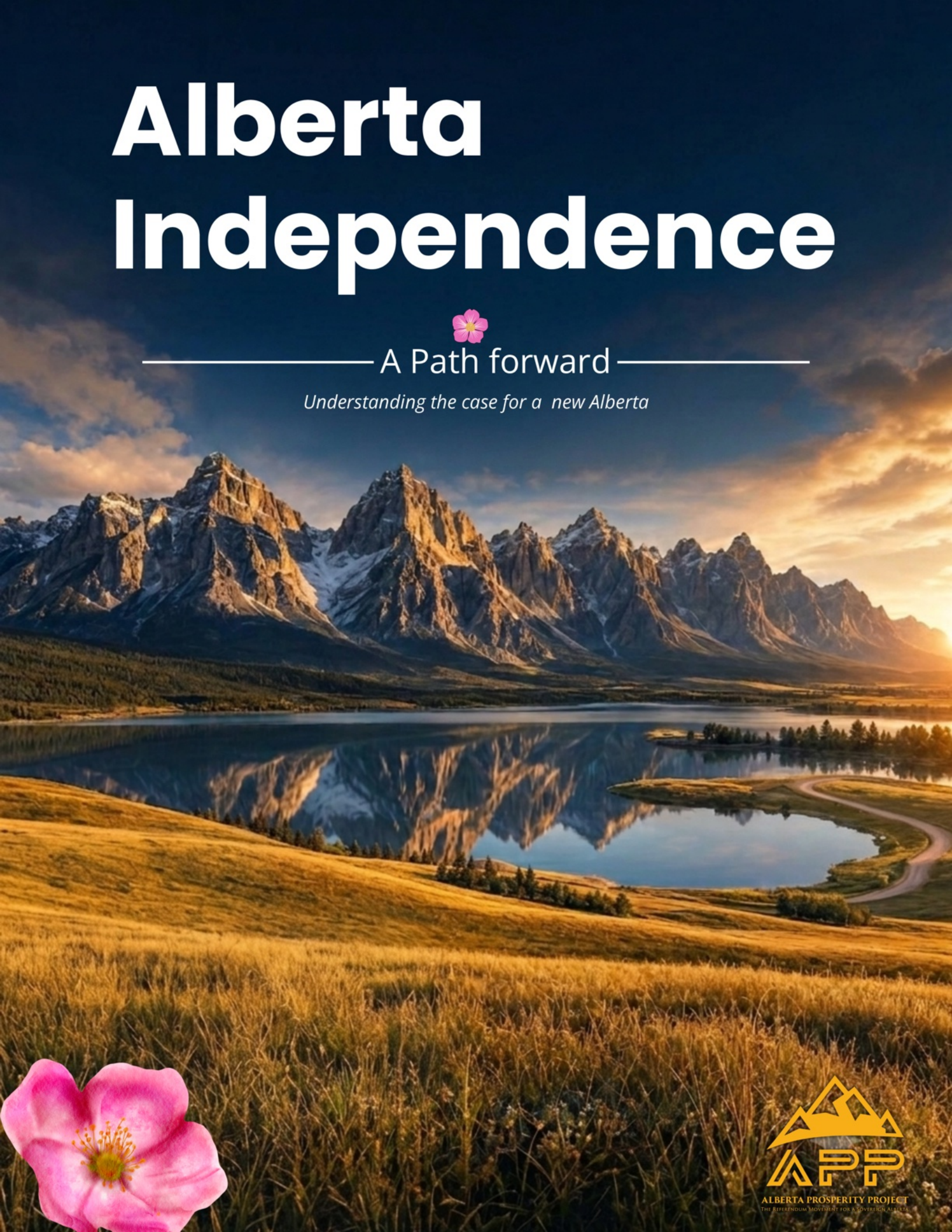
Alberta Independence

A Path forward

Understanding the case for a new Alberta



ALBERTA PROSPERITY PROJECT

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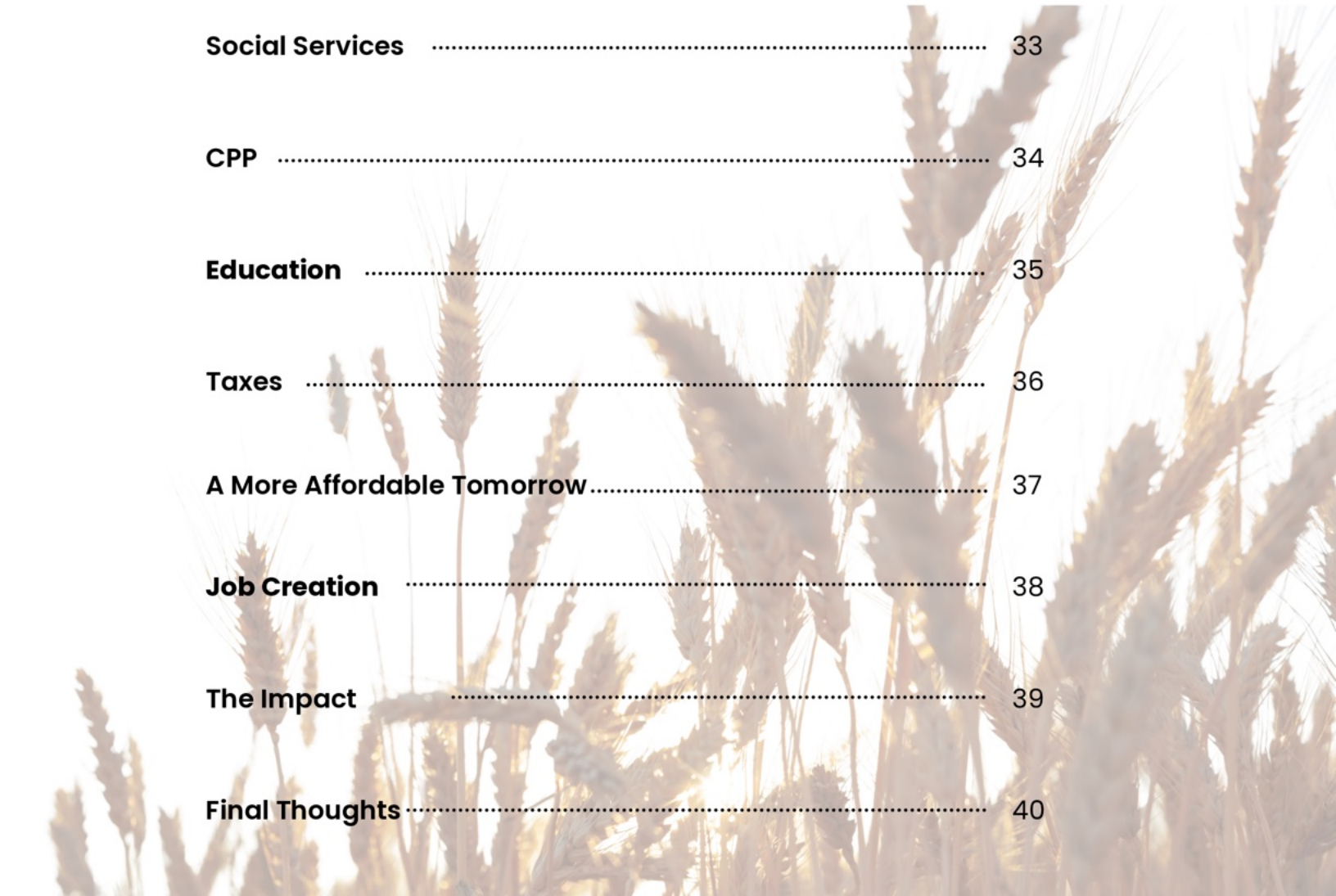


Thank you for taking a courageous step for the future of Alberta

The future of Alberta is OUR future. The future of our children, grandchildren, and future generations.

How is something so grand accomplished? By Albertans just like you inviting those they care about to a respectful discussion.

Many are afraid of change and of what it would look like if Albertans took more control over our own future. A lot of this hesitation is based on our natural fear of something new, but also on vague warnings from those who oppose setting Alberta free.

While Ottawa has taxpayer funded media as their mouthpiece, the people of Alberta have something stronger: relationship and community.

Food is always good - get some treats and invite people over for a chat.

They may not all end up agreeing with you, but you will have planted powerful seeds and facts. We recommend an informal, friendly environment with treats provided. Present the facts but don't take it personally if it doesn't bear fruit just yet.

The following guide is intended to help make that discussion easier with topics laid out by subject. Print the pages following this one as handouts to help keep the discussion on track and for participants to take home after. If people decline an invitation to an informational get together, see if they would be willing to read this handout at home and meet you one-on-one after to discuss.

Alberta wasn't built in a day.

The future of Alberta is YOUR future. It's in your hands to build from the ground up. The world's newest nation.

So why is there a growing movement of almost half of Albertans who want to change the status quo?

Isn't that risky? Unpatriotic? Unfeasible, even?

The following information is intended to help explain why so many are considering the future in a new light. Some of the things you read may surprise you—please feel free to research them further.

A word of caution: the mainstream media in Canada are funded by taxpayer dollars (CBC, for example, receives approximately $1.4 billion annually, with Mark Carney pledging an additional $150 million annually). If Albertan taxpayers stop funding them, they stand to lose a great deal of money. Please bear this in mind as you hear their dire predictions. They will paint those seeking change in a poor light. But you know your friends. Likely the person who shared this with you is a friend trying to reach out. They have nothing to gain by sharing this with you and may in fact be risking a rebuff. Your best research will be done by looking at numbers rather than editorial pieces by paid pundits.

To research the following information more thoroughly, please read *The Value of Freedom* document available at albertaprosperityproject.com.

Alberta Prosperity Project

Dear Alberta Citizen:

First off, thank you for being here. I appreciate that you made the decision to listen and consider the reasons behind the growing sovereignty movement in Alberta. Today, we are facing a significant crossroads—a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to send a message to Ottawa about our province's future, lawfully and democratically.

But in order for the democratic process to be just, we must have an informed citizenry. That is why I chose to lead the Alberta Prosperity Project: to educate Albertans about the reality of our province's relationship to confederation and the choices we have.

Like many of you, I had never imagined I would be involved in provincial politics—I was a local business owner, father, and grandfather, proud of this country and this province. But after learning about the direction that Ottawa is taking us and the very real stakes involved, I felt there is no choice but to act out of concern for the future of my family, fellow Albertans, and our province.

This is a grassroots movement—built by thousands of volunteers spending countless hours collecting signatures in the cold of winter, organizing and speaking at townhalls and gatherings, and creating educational materials so that Albertans can shape their own future through a democratic referendum.

I invite you to take what you learn here and share it with your friends and family so they too can be empowered to make an informed choice. This is a moment that will make history, and I believe we can secure a stronger, more prosperous, and freer Alberta for the next generation.

Let's Go!

Sincerely,

Mitch Sylvestre
CEO, Alberta Prosperity Project

"It will be you who will determine whether or not you want to see more of your lives directed and controlled by Ottawa."

— **PETER LOUGHEED**
10TH PREMIER OF ALBERTA

"Albertans built this province with their own hands.
It's time we had the right to decide our own future."

— **MITCH SYLVESTRE**
CEO ALBERTA PROSPERITY PROJECT

WHAT'S
EVERYONE
GETTING
SO
WORKED
UP
ABOUT

Oh, Canada

Whether we were born in Canada or chose it later, the name “Canada” has meant something dear to us.

Oh, Canada

Love for your country is a powerful and beautiful thing.

When we think of Canada, a country that has been known for its friendliness, peacekeeping, and beautiful scenery, many Albertans feel a sense of loss.

Our love for our country is touched by a deeper sense of abandonment when we look at what Canada has become over the past several decades. We know we were privileged to live in one of the greatest countries in the world, built on strong values and a respect for our fellow Canadians. But now it grieves us to see Canada disrespecting those values.

We have been watching the direction the country has been taking and do not agree with the course that has been set. The values of the East are drifting further and further from the values of the West and the East is at the helm.

We are among the most taxed citizens in the world, with little representation to show for it. We know the results of the federal election before the votes of the West are even counted. If a Conservative leader does get in, their voter base is out East and they must always consider the East before Alberta.

When we have lived with peace and prosperity for many years, it can be hard to believe that it will fail. Throughout history, nations have changed drastically, yet it's difficult to believe it could happen here... happen now... **happen to us.**

But those seeking to forge a stronger Alberta are not doing so out of fear.

We are doing so out of hope! Many of our parents and grandparents came to Canada, leaving their own country behind. We don't view them as traitors to their country of birth. Instead, we are grateful to them for taking a clear-eyed, unsentimental look at the road ahead. They took a chance on a new way of life and risked redefining themselves to provide a better future for their children and grandchildren.

Their heritage was still a part of them, even with immigration, with many weaving a new tapestry for their children out of old threads and new.

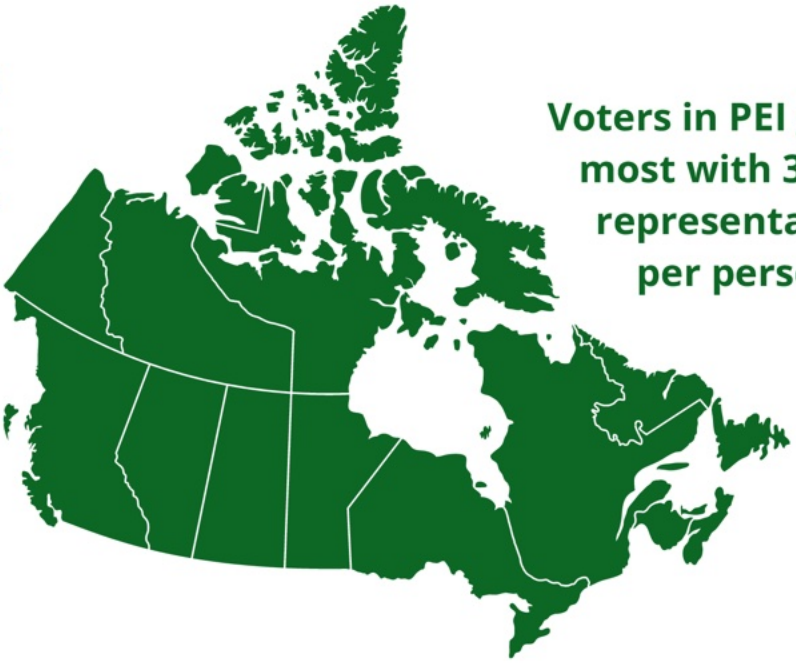
Alberta seeks to honour and foster REAL Canadian values by staying true to the values of our childhood and heritage, charting a different course from the decline of the eastern provinces.

Oh, Canada

Alberta has a large average population per riding.

What does that mean?

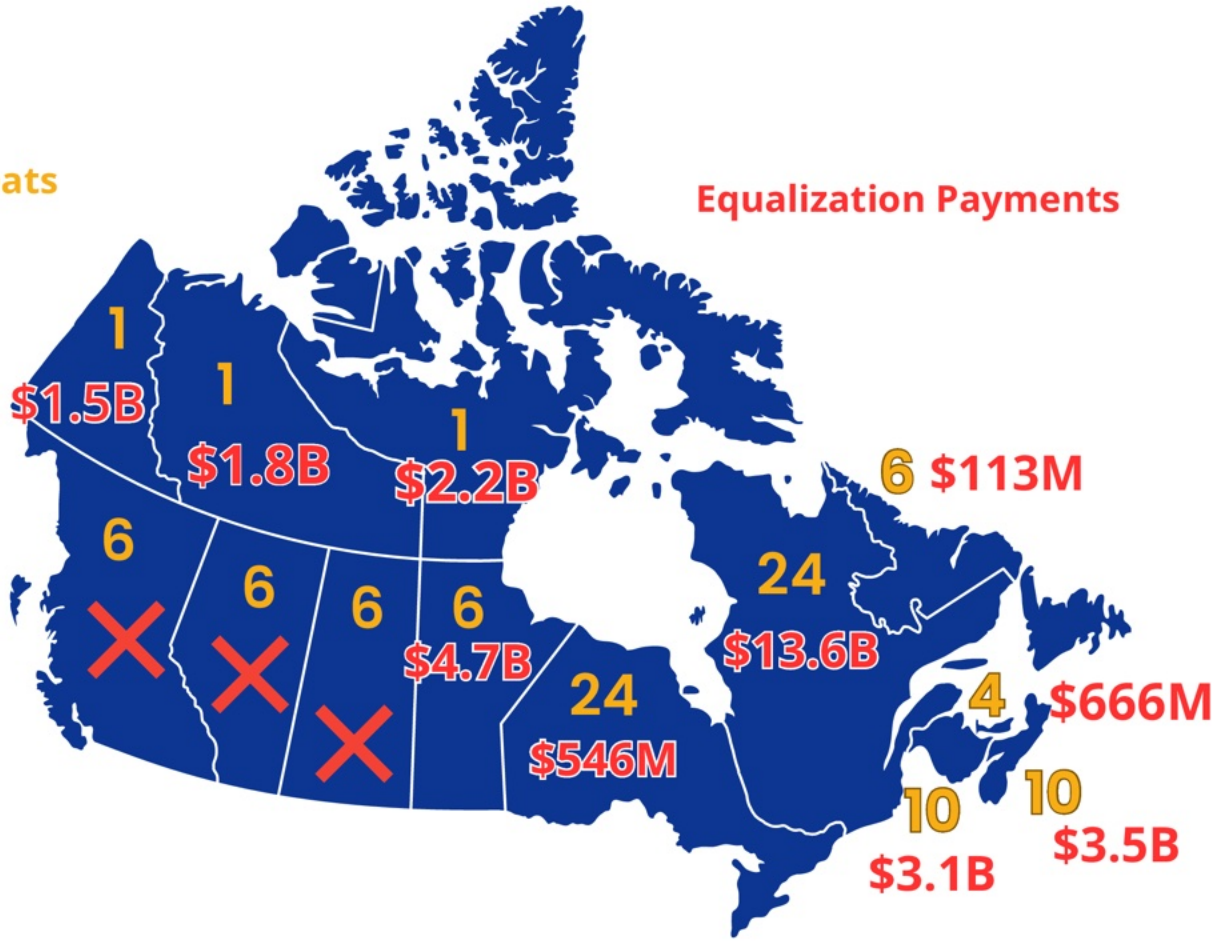
Voters in most other provinces and territories have more voting power than an Albertan.



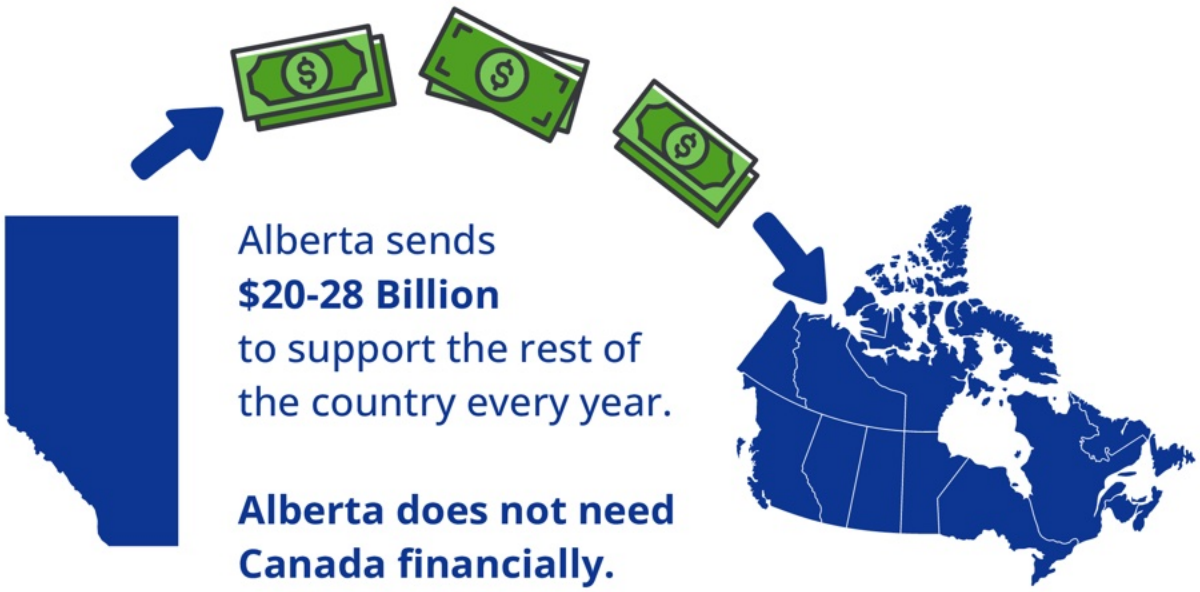
Voters in PEI get the most with 3x the representation per person

Senate Seats

Equalization Payments



Oh, Canada



Alberta sends
$20-28 Billion
to support the rest of
the country every year.

Alberta does not need Canada financially.

Alberta's oil revenue is fully counted when calculating Equalization payments while provinces like Quebec undercount resources allowing them to appear "poorer". If hydropower were valued like oil, Quebec's payments could be reduced by billions

SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE

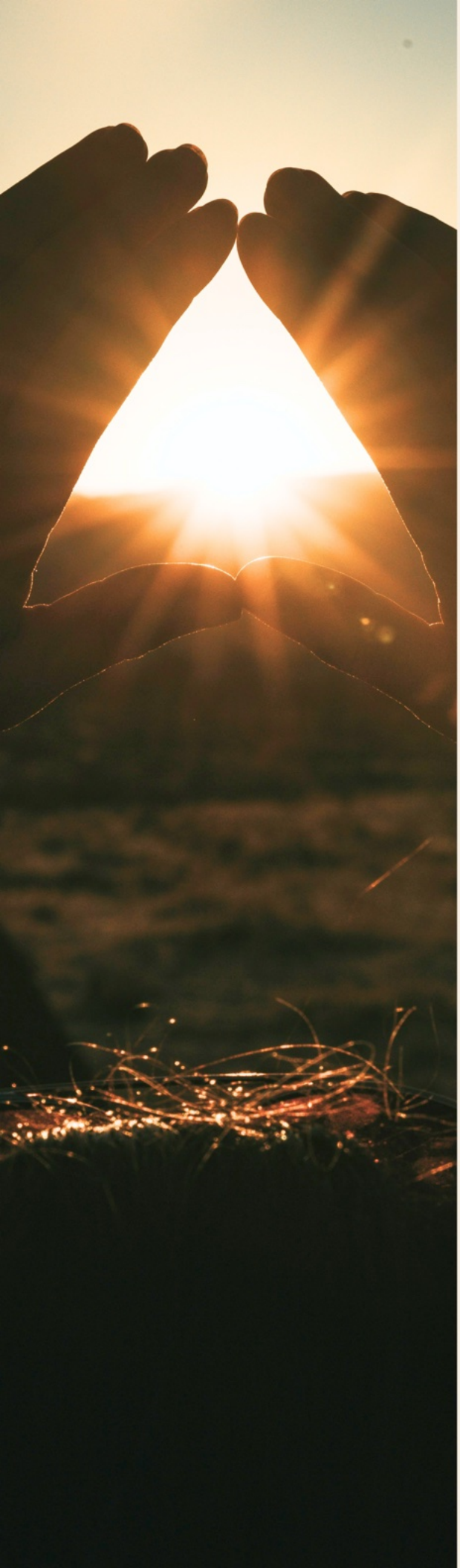
A lot of people who support Alberta independence often say they want to ensure a better life for future generations of Albertans.

- Federal policies are often not in the best interests of Albertans and do not reflect the realities of life in Alberta and the needs and priorities of the people who live and work here.

- More control over spending could mean greater investment in things that affect everyday life — like healthcare, education, social services, and infrastructure.

- An Alberta government that is free from federal control is better able to make decisions and policies that benefit Albertans, rather than benefitting the federal government's agenda.

- Potential changes such as lower personal taxes, reduced pension contributions, and increased benefits are ways to make life more affordable for individuals and families.



SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE CONT.

- An independent Alberta is also committed to sustainability and protecting the environment, but not through constraining federal policies that hurt the economy with no demonstrated environmental benefits.
- Having more control over policing could allow Alberta to create policies to improve public safety in both rural and urban areas.
- People who support independence believe that Albertans should have more control over decisions that shape their lives — today and in the future.

01

Alberta's Economic Powerhouse

WHY ALBERTA'S WEALTH BELONGS TO ALBERTANS

Alberta contributes over $20 billion annually to federal transfers while receiving far less in return. With the world's third-largest proven oil reserves, Alberta's resource wealth is the engine of the Canadian economy.

Alberta Sends
$20B+
per year to Ottawa in net fiscal transfers

Alberta GDP
$430 Billion

> Alberta built Canada - now it's time Alberta built itself.

02

Land, Resources & Sovereignty

Alberta's Natural Inheritance

Alberta's 661,000 square kilometres contain some of the world's most valuable natural resources — oil, natural gas, coal, timber, and fertile farmland. Albertans have always been stewards of this land.

Oil Sands:
165 billion barrels of proven reserves

Agriculture:
21 million hectares of farmland

Forestry:
381,000 sq km of boreal forest

> ***The land is ours.***
> ***The future is ours to decide.***

02

Land, Resources & Sovereignty

Alberta's Natural Inheritance

Federal policies, such as emissions caps, often disproportionately impact Alberta, restricting economic development without demonstrating meaningful environmental benefits.

They also do not take the distinct landscapes of each province into account.
Alberta could create an environmental strategy that harnesses the local environment to be more effective and more sustainable.

The goal would be to support both a strong economy and a healthy, more resilient environment by protecting biodiversity and soil health, and creating long-term sustainability.

A full proposal is outlined in The Value of Freedom document (pages 23–25), which provides more details about this potential environmental strategy. We encourage you to review the proposal for yourself to explore the possibilities for a more logical and effective environmental strategy in an independent Alberta.

03

Governing Ourselves

Democratic Self-Determination for 4.7 Million Albertans

An independent Alberta would establish its own constitution, elect its own parliament, and set its own laws - free from federal overreach on energy, agriculture, and social policy.

Alberta Population: *4.7 Million*

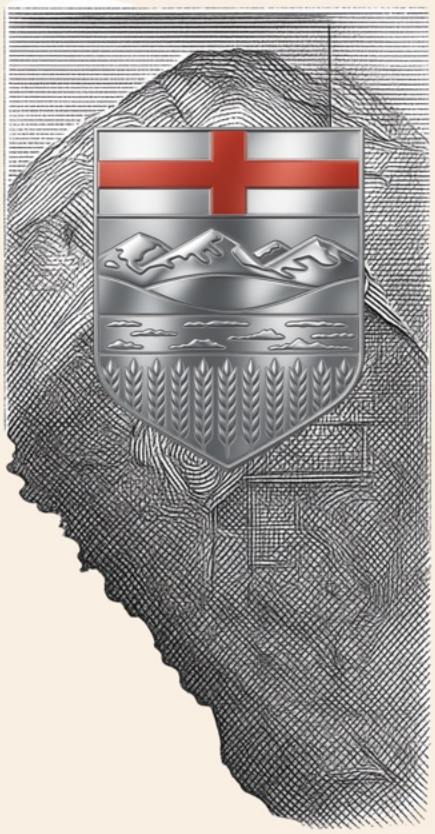
Alberta Legislature: 87 elected MLAS

Founded: *1905*

Democracy means the people closest to a problem have the power to solve it.

04

A Vision for Tomorrow



BUILDING A PROSPEROUS, FREE, AND SOVEREIGN ALBERTA

An independent Alberta would control its own trade, set its own taxes, manage its own healthcare and education, and forge its own international relationships — a nation built on freedom, fairness, and the Alberta spirit.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM
Keep Alberta's wealth in Alberta

DEMOCRATIC CONTROL
Elect leaders who answer to Albertans

CULTURAL PRIDE
Celebrate the Alberta way of life

The best days of Alberta are still ahead

05

Legal or Possible

Canada's Supreme Court has recognized that a province has the right to explore independence through a democratic referendum process.

This means that Albertans can have discussions, debate the idea, and vote on it through established constitutional and democratic processes.

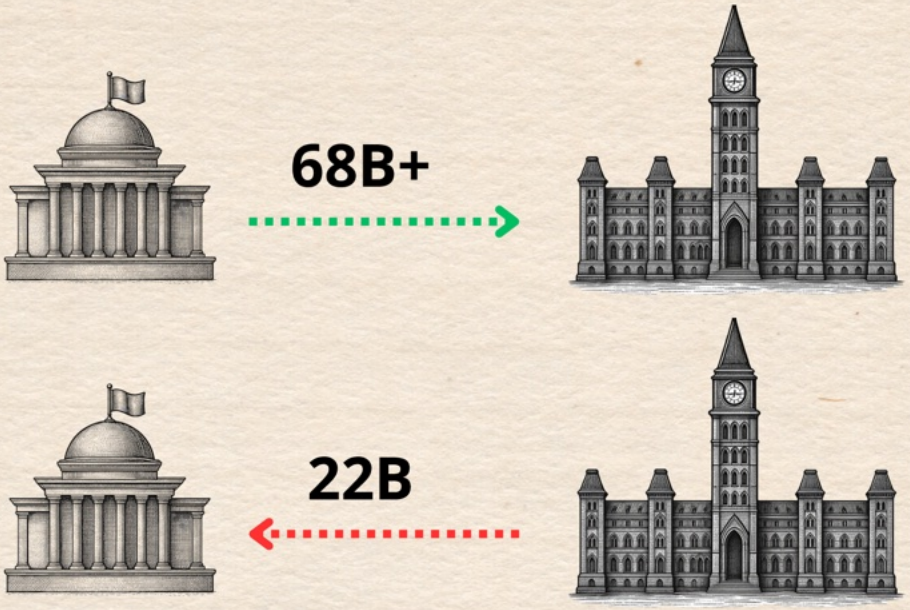
It is important to understand what the upcoming referendum question actually means. Alberta cannot separate from Canada based on the October 19 2026 reference question alone. **Option 2 for the separation question on the referendum is:** "The Government of Alberta should commence the legal process required under the Canadian Constitution to hold a binding provincial referendum on whether or not Alberta should separate from Canada."

If enough people select this option, this does **not** mean that Alberta will immediately become legally separated from Canada. Instead, the Government of Alberta will initiate the legal process required to hold a second, binding referendum on this topic. Many Albertans are interested in keeping independence as a possibility, knowing that a second, binding referendum would not take place for a couple of years.

06

EQUALIZATION

Alberta is a net contributor to the current federal fiscal system, meaning that the province pays in far more money than it gets back in federal transfers.



It is true that Alberta would no longer receive federal transfer payments. However, because Alberta pays much more federal tax than it receives in transfer, this is not a concern. Keeping the full annual $68-75 billion in Alberta could easily cover current provincial costs as well as costs for taking over federally provided services and supports.

> *An independent Alberta would not have to make equalization payments anymore - or other federal payments*

07

Healthcare

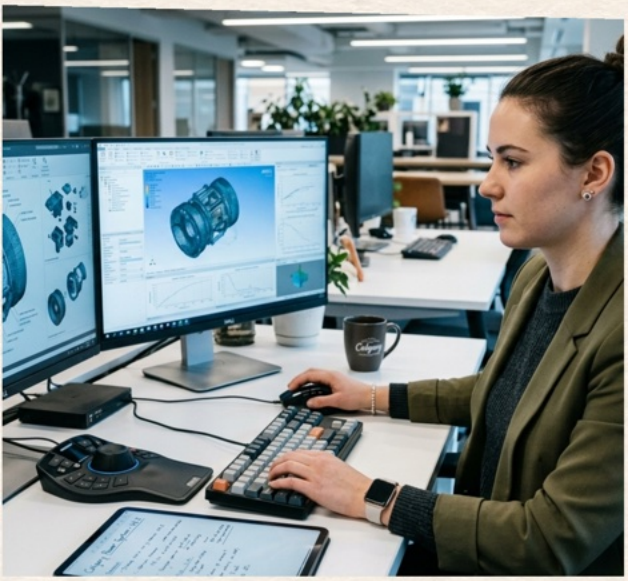
Cost estimates factor in the amounts needed for an independent Alberta to take over funding for current federal health programs. Funding for these programs could be covered easily if Alberta was able to retain the revenue currently collected in federal taxes.

Funding:
Healthcare is already largely managed and funded within Alberta

Coverage:
free pharmacare and dental care for 1.5 million children, retirees, low income

> ***Increase healthcare funding, enhance quality of life***

08



Who We Are

ALBERTA'S IDENTITY, CULTURE AND PEOPLE

From the foothills ranches to the northern boreal, from Indigenous nations to new Canadians, Albertans share a common spirit: self-reliance, hard work, and a deep love of this land.

> ***Alberta is not just a place. It is a way of life.***

Alberta is home to

45+

INDIGENOUS NATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

Over

200

LANGUAGES SPOKEN ACROSS THE PROVINCE

08

Indigenous rights

ALBERTA'S IDENTITY, CULTURE AND PEOPLE

The goal is to support greater self-determination and sovereignty for Indigenous communities. Federal policies have often failed Indigenous peoples and have intentionally created ongoing dependence on the federal government.

In contrast, an independent Alberta could create opportunities for Indigenous communities to strengthen economic self-sufficiency, improve social and health independence, expand education and cultural autonomy, and take leadership roles in environmental stewardship.

ENGAGEMENT WITH
45+
INDIGENOUS NATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

INVESTING
$6.6B+
IN INDIGENOUS NATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

> ***Alberta independence in no way intends to diminish the rights of Indigenous people***

09

The big question

There are many questions to consider when it comes to Alberta independence, but what it comes down to is simple: **Do you believe Albertans would be better served if more decisions about Alberta's future were made in Alberta?**

The provincial government, no matter what party is in power, is constrained by federal decisions, meaning that they often have limited control over policies that have major impacts on Albertans. With more control, Alberta could set its own priorities to ensure decisions are made in the best interests of Alberta's workers, families, and pensioners.

Local decisions are often better able to reflect the values of Albertans and the realities of life in Alberta.

It is important to remember that wanting independence for Alberta does not have to mean that you dislike Canada - it means that you want to do what you can to give Alberta the best chance to succeed.

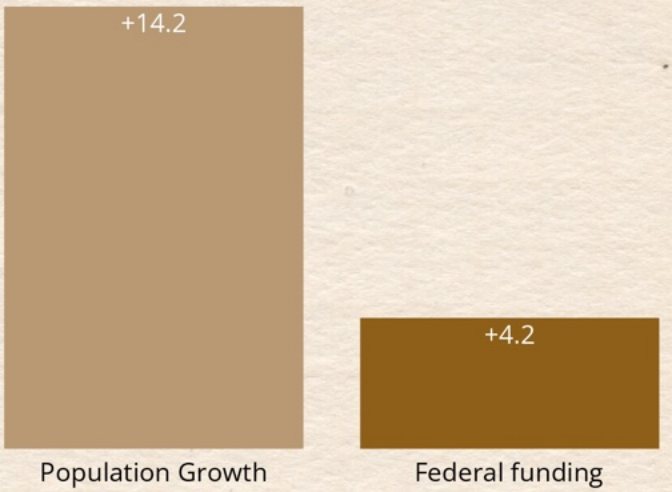
10

Immigration

Control over immigration is a major reason that Alberta independence is desired. The federal government is the ultimate authority on all matters involving immigration, and they have final decision-making power. This means that Alberta does not have much control over immigration into the province.

The Funding Gap

Population growth has outpaced federal funding for services



Healthcare, education, and public services have not kept pace

Immigration Control

WHY IT MATTERS FOR ALBERTA

Skills-Based Immigration

Energy

Technology

Agriculture

An independent Alberta could focus immigration on priority skills needed in these key industries.

Points-Based System

Skills Verification

Language Proficiency

Work Experience

Education Level

Similar to Canada's Federal Skilled Worker Program (2005) — a transparent, merit-based approach.

Criminal Deportation & Public Safety

Current System
Federal policies seen as too lenient on non-citizen criminals. Alberta has no authority to deport.

Independent Alberta
Could deport non-citizens with criminal convictions. Public consultation to guide policy.

Public consultation would be sought to ensure policies reflect the interests of Albertans.

11

Public safety

CREATING A SAFER INDEPENDENT ALBERTA

Public safety is a major reason for wanting independence. Crime rates have risen substantially in the last decade and federal policies are doing nothing to reverse this.
The goal is for Albertans to feel safer than they do currently.
Concerns about public safety have increased over the last decade, across Canada.

Key Benefits of Local Policing

Direct Accountability

Rural & Urban Coverage

Local Oversight

Public Safety

CREATING A SAFER INDEPENDENT ALBERTA

Rising Crime Rates

+32%
Crime rate increase in the last decade

Crime rates have risen substantially and federal policies are doing nothing to reverse this. The goal is for Albertans to feel safer. Concerns about public safety have increased over the last decade, across Canada.

Alberta Police Force vs. RCMP

Current: RCMP Contract

- Not directly accountable to Alberta
- Numerous controversies
- Limited local control
- Rural policing gaps

Proposed: Alberta Police

- Directly accountable to Albertans
- Enhanced rural & urban policing
- Local priorities & oversight
- Made-in-Alberta solutions

The RCMP has been involved in numerous controversies, further contributing to concerns about public safety under the current system.

National defence

CREATING A SAFER INDEPENDENT ALBERTA

An independent Alberta would establish the Alberta Military for national defense, taking over responsibilities currently managed federally.

$3–5B
per year (estimated)

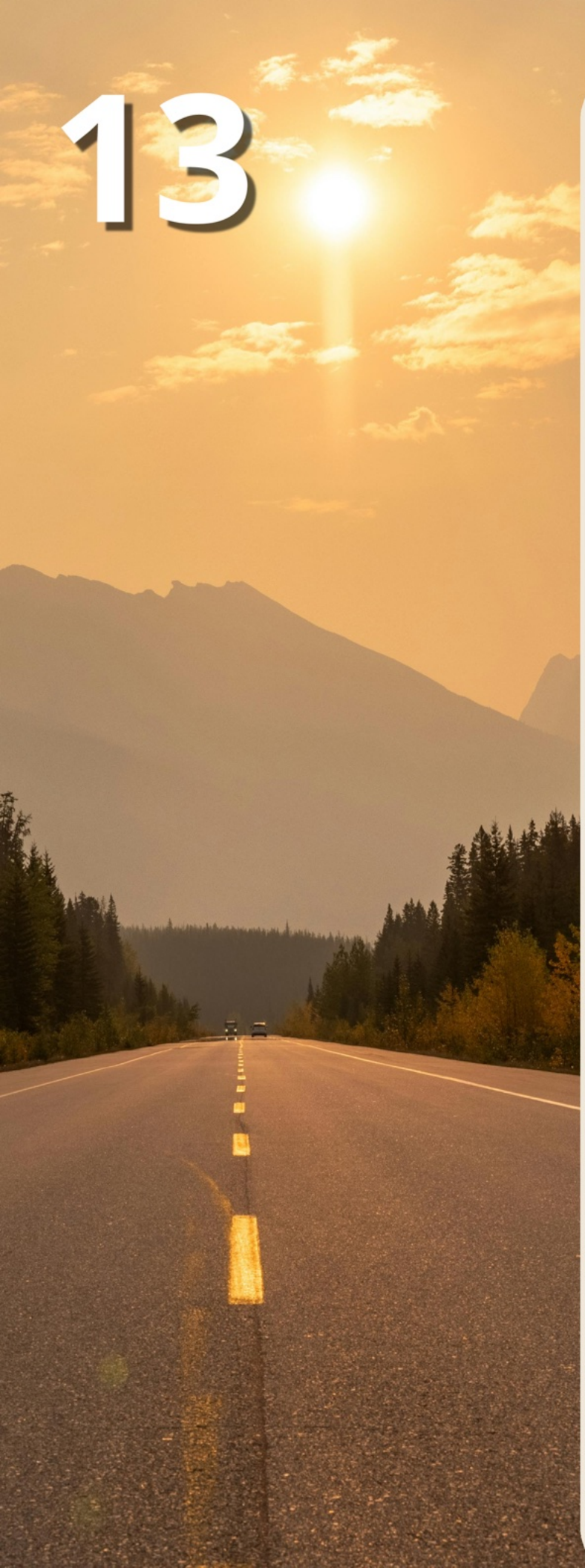
$1–2.5B
one-time startup costs

Military Member Transition Support

Pension Support

Education Opportunities

Transition Assistance



13

Not left. Not Right. Forward.

This is not about political parties.

Alberta independence is not about being right wing or left wing.

People from every background can support the idea that Albertans should have the right to decide Alberta's future. It is, at its core, a democratic principle.

This movement is not connected to any political party or current government - it is about Albertans having the right to decide Alberta's future. In other words, it is in keeping with the core principles of democracy.

> In keeping with the core principles of democracy.

14

Parental benefits

TAKING CARE OF NEW PARENTS

This would be an important part of planning for Alberta's future.
Right now, maternity and parental leave are paid by the federal government out of the Employment Insurance program (also called EI).

RECEIVING BENEFITS
Equal to or better than current

TRANSITION COSTS
Creating/taking over programs that are currently federal

FISCAL FOOTPRNT
Maintain or increase benefits

15

SOCIAL SERVICES

The majority of social services are already under provincial jurisdiction, meaning that Alberta administrates and covers the costs of these programs. Financial estimates for an independent Alberta include maintaining current provincial spending, including funding for social services.

With the additional funds that an independent Alberta would have as a result of retaining the $44-47 billion that is currently lost to federal taxes, along with possible increased revenues from Alberta's growth, there would be enough money to cover current federally funded programs (such as Employment Insurance, or EI), and also opportunities to invest more money into social services.

> The goal is to strengthen programs that support Albertans and improve quality of life.

Canada Pension Plan

YOUR MONEY IS YOURS, ANYWHERE

There has been a lot of work done to develop a proposal for a new Alberta Pension Plan (APP). The APP would be funded by a transfer of CPP assets from the federal government, investment returns (with investments made using APP contributions), and ongoing contributions from Alberta workers and employers.

The APP would have a higher annual revenue because there would be no contributions made to the CPP. This additional revenue could be used to lower contribution rates for Albertans, increase pension payouts and disability benefits, and replace federal programs like Canada Old Age Security (OAS).

Alberta is owed
$167B
in CPP contributions

16

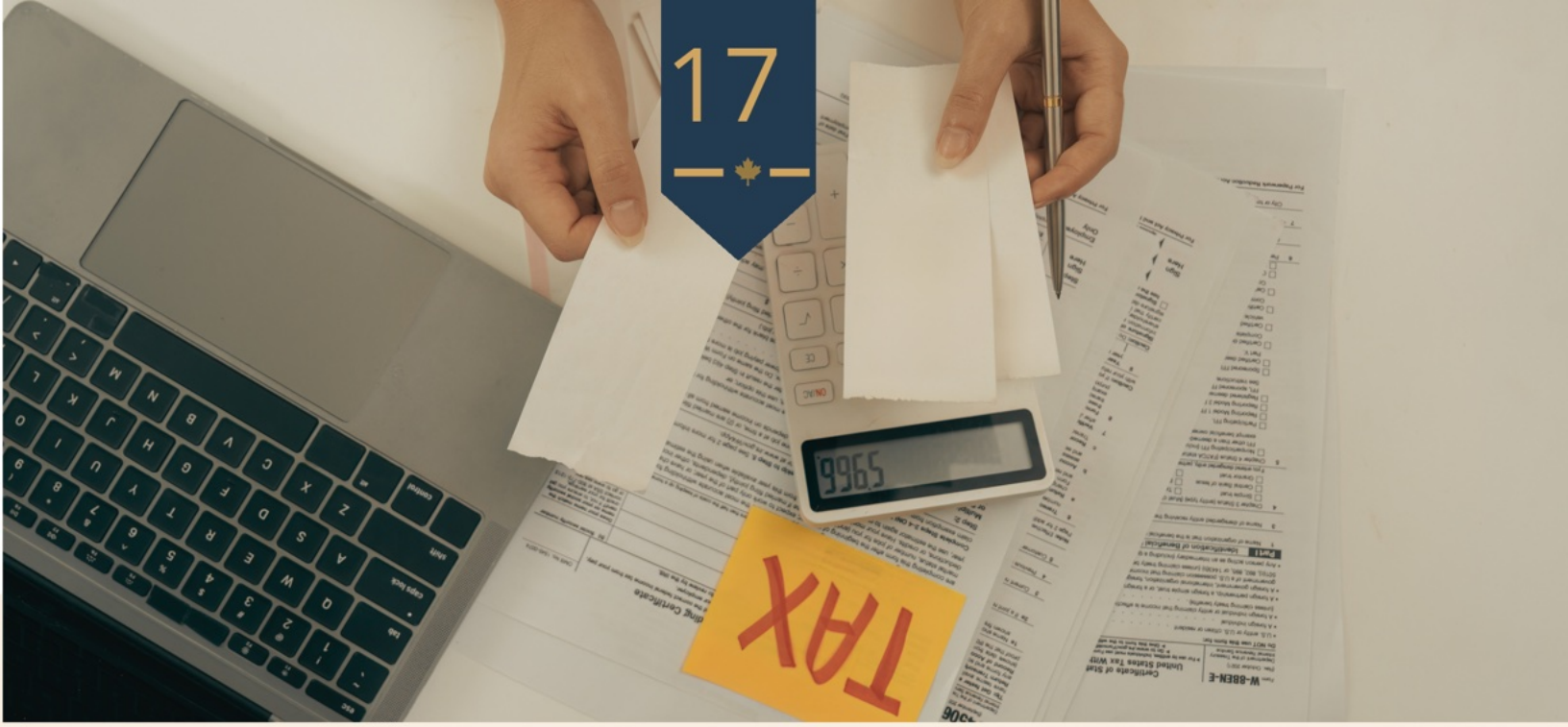
Education

Financial planning for an independent Alberta includes covering current provincial spending for education. All current spending would be maintained, and opportunities have been identified to invest additional funds into education and other public services.

Funding:
Alberta already manages its own education system

Post secondary:
Reducing tuition to 25% current levels

> More accessible, stronger career start



Taxes

LOWER TAXES

If Alberta kept the full **$68-75 billion** currently sent to Ottawa in federal taxes, the province would have more money available to make decisions about spending and taxation.

This surplus could be used to reduce taxes for Albertans - a priority for many people.

The exact tax system would be decided during negotiations and the transition process, but reducing the tax burden on Albertans is a key goal of an independent Alberta.

18

A more affordable Tomorrow

MAKING LIFE MORE AFFORDABLE

There could be lots of opportunities to make life more affordable if Alberta was independent.
Alberta currently pays $68-75 billion annually in federal taxes and only receives $22-26 billion back in federal transfers.

This means Alberta loses $44-47 billion annually to federal revenue The goal of independence is to create a future where Alberta keeps its revenue and uses it to improve services for Albertans, and Albertans have more control over decisions that affect their everyday lives and finances.

ALBERTA PENSION PLAN
Lower pension contribution rates

REDUCED TUITION
Reduced post-secondary education fees

LOWER TAXES
Reduced personal income taxes

19

Job creation

There are opportunities for significant job creation in an independent Alberta. This is great news for all Albertans, including young adults and new graduates, as youth unemployment (ages 15-24) in Canada has been increasing.

Energy Sector: Potential for resource development

Infrastructure: Building projects Alberta needs to enhance economic efficiency

Indigenous: Education, land and forest management, and healthcare.

Alberta would also take over management and spending for current federal services, like border control, customs, and passport services (among others). This would create new jobs to operate and manage these services within Alberta.

20

The impact

The idea is that keeping more revenue within Alberta creates more opportunities to invest in programs and services that benefit Albertans. This includes the $68–75 billion currently sent to Ottawa in federal taxes.
If the economy grows, Alberta could invest more into important services like healthcare, education, infrastructure, and social programs.

Reducing post-secondary education fees has already been proposed as a priority initiative. Potential changes could include lower personal taxes, lower pension contribution rates with higher payouts, and expanded public services such as free pharmacare and dental coverage for low-income families, children, and retirees.

A stronger economy and more job opportunities, potentially aided by corporate tax reductions, could help young Albertans build their careers and stay in Alberta.

> The goal of Alberta independence is to create a better future for all Albertans, and for future generations.

Final Thoughts

Citizenship & Travel

Anyone born in Canada will always be a Canadian citizen. 3 million Canadians currently don't live in Canada, and over 3 million have dual citizenship, including 48 MPs.

G20 Countries

IN RECESSION

Canada

NOT IN RECESSION

USA
Australia
Brazil
Argentina
China
France
Germany
India
Indonesia
Italy
Japan
Mexico
Russia
Saudi Arabia
South Africa
South Korea
Turkey
UK

Government Overreach and Violation of Rights and Freedoms

There are growing concerns about the federal government granting itself too much power in recent years.

Bill C-8:
This bill gives the federal government more control over telecommunications access like internet and cell service. Government could order companies to block someone's access to the internet without going through a court, and without public transparency. While the stated goal is to improve cybersecurity, there are concerns that this would lead to government overreach, less transparency, and violations of personal freedoms.

Bill C-9:
This bill focuses on stopping hate speech and hate-based actions. That's not a bad thing! The controversy is around how broadly terms like "hate" and "intimidation" are defined. The government might not apply these definitions consistently or fairly, potentially targeting certain groups. Freedom of speech and expression may be stifled.

Bill C-22:
This bill is meant to help police fight crime and improve cybersecurity by expanding digital surveillance powers. However, the bill gives too much access to people's online information, even if they are not suspected of a crime. Concerns have been raised about data collection and protections from unreasonable search. Major tech companies like Apple, Google, and Meta have voiced concerns about the privacy violations of this bill.

Bill C-34:
This bill would restrict social media access for anyone under 16 and give the government the power to decide what content is considered "harmful", for all users. Once again, the definitions are broad and could lead to government censorship, which is in direct conflict with the principles of democracy. It is also concerning that young people could lose access to online communities, support networks, and spaces where they share ideas, as well as making digital ID necessary for all ages, leading to potential "social credit" like restrictions.

Myth: "Alberta can't leave Canada—it's not legal."

FACT:
Alberta has the legal right to leave. The law is already in place!

In 1998, the Supreme Court ruled that any province has the right to pursue independence if there is a clear majority vote (that's from the landmark Reference Secession of Quebec case).

In response, **Parliament passed the Clarity Act in 2000**, confirming the same thing: if a majority of Albertans vote to leave, the federal government must negotiate our exit.

No new laws are needed. We already have the constitutional path laid out.

Myth: "Only the radical fringe want independence."

FACT: Polls regularly show 38%-45% support—we just have to choose it.

Myth: "Alberta is landlocked so it can't trade."

FACT:
Alberta already exports billions. Having more control won't block trade—it strengthens our leverage to negotiate better access with a pipeline-hostile Canadian government.

Alberta can more freely negotiate trade agreements with the US, and more. Our oil, food, and minerals give us massive leverage. We could also enjoy a mutually tariff-free relationship with the US.

Thank you for reading and considering the different options the future holds.

To find out more, please visit:
albertaprosperityproject.com

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OUR CHOICE.